

1986

BAMFORTH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
WYOMING

Administered by Arapaho NWR
P.O. Box 457 Walden, Colorado

Bamforth National Wildlife Refuge was visited on May 9th. Above normal precipitation the past two years has increased Bamforth Lake water levels considerably.

Wyoming Game and Fish Department personnel visited the refuge on August 1 and conducted a brief survey of colonial nesting species present. Species observed were the double-crested cormorant, California gull, herring gull, caspian tern, snowy egret and the black-crowned night heron. They did express concern for the rising water levels and the potential loss of nesting islands. The one island of concern, which was completely under water, is not located on refuge lands. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department was assured that our limited management opportunities at Bamforth do not include water level manipulation and that we do not conduct any activities that would adversely affect colonial bird nesting habitat.

One grazing permit is issued to an adjacent rancher covering on and off grazing on unfenced refuge lands.

This refuge has been on the "disposal list" for over twenty years and remains more or less in that status today.

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Bamforth National Wildlife Refuge was visited twice during the year. On May 3rd, Manager Patten and Biological Technician Brewer visited the refuge to check on water conditions. Water conditions were good due to carry-over water from last year and added water from the snowpack this spring.

On July 3rd, A.R.D. Marvin Plenert, Refuge Supervisor Phil Norton and Refuge Manager Patten toured portions of Bamforth N.W.R. and reviewed administrative and management problems associated with the satellite refuge.

One grazing permit for 99 AUM's at a rate of \$2.00 per AUM is issued to Leonard Johnson on a annual basis covering on and off grazing on unfenced refuge lands. A condition of Mr. Johnson's permit is that he irrigate refuge lands when water is available in the Park Ditch which is not a good refuge water right. A total of 60 acre feet was diverted to refuge meadows this year.